# COUNTLESS TIME

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七瀨かい

Kai Nanase

# 夏日的少年情懷

未滿18歲禁閱

Blue Star

BS COMIC

夏日的少年情懷

七瀨かい

S

尚禾

NT-100

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像野獸一般凌厲的高屋奈津彥後，就消失蹤影的兒時玩伴有阪浚再次現身。他以父親繼承人的身份出現，變成了奈津彥的哥哥。

身上似乎帶著陰影的俊俏哥哥，背後隱藏著可怕的祕密是什麼呢？

如烈焰般的戀情、復仇的愛，華麗的維曼史完全版！

# IMA WA TOOI NATSU

NANASE KAI

Act 1
WELCOME BACK MASTER
.....
THE YOUNG MASTER NATSU LEFT THIS MORNING.
HE SAID IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR HIS ENTRANCE EXAMS HE'D HAVE A STUDY SESSION WITH HIS TUTOR, MR. NARUSE.
I JUST CAME BACK TO CHANGE MY CLOTHES. I'LL BE LEAVING SOON.
WHERE'S NAT-SUHIKO?
HE MEN-TIONED THEY WOULD BE STAYING AT OUR COT-TAGE IN THE N HIGH-LANDS.
WHAT...?

I'M VERY SWEATY SO I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER
THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS REALLY HOT!
IT'S NOTHING
IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG?
HOW GOOD IT IS THAT YOUNG MASTER NATSU IS STUDYING AT THE SUMMER RESORT.
EVERYONE IS ON SUMMER VACATION NOW.
THAT'S A SPECIAL SUMMER

ACT 1
SENSEI
WE SHOULD BE SEEING THE BUNGA-LOW SOON
IT'S BE-CAUSE IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE I WAS THERE LAST, I ALMOST FORGOT
I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE SUR-ROUNDINGS, SO WE'RE NOT LOST
ARE YOU SURE, NATSU?
YOU'VE BEEN TELLING ME THAT NEARLY FROM THE BEGINNING!
IT REALLY HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL!
I REALLY MISS THIS SCENERY

Chirp
Chirp
Chirp
COUNCILOR TAKAYA ASKED ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU, ALSO
THAT'S GOOD NOW YOU CAN AVOID THE TEMP-TATION,
YOU SEE, JUST AS EXPECTED, YOU CAN'T USE CELL PHONES OUT HERE!
AND BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON YOUR STUDIES
THE BLUE SKY AND GREEN TREES AND THE SHADINGS,
DID YOU HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAY?
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED DRAGGING YOU HERE TO DO THIS FOR ME.
A CON-TINUOUS CHORUS OF CICADAS... THEY REMIND ME OF THOSE GOOD, OLD DAYS...
UGH! DON'T MENTION MY FATHER'S NAME!
HE DOESN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ME ANYWAY.
AS A HOME TEACHER, I'M ACTUALLY GLAD THAT YOU BECAME SERIOUS WITH YOUR STUDIES, NATSU.

RUSTLE
IS SOME-ONE THERE?
WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER LATELY. HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT ME COMING HERE!
I MADE MY FIRST BEST FRIEND HERE.
I WAS VERY HAPPY AT THAT TIME.
Act 1

COULD IT BE
CLICK
COULD THAT BE... RYO-CHAN?

RYO-...!
BUMP
HEY!
Slap
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO SET FIRE TO THE HOUSE, IS IT?
DROP
WHO ARE YOU,
TO GO INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S HOUSES WITHOUT PERMISSION LIKE A SUSPICIOUS PERSON?
SET FIRE?

GIVE IT BACK!
YOU'RE A TEENAGER, AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSE TO HAVE A NEED FOR A CIGARETTE LIGHTER, SHOULD YOU?
THAT SOME-ONE GAVE TO ME, SO...
IT'S A PRES-ENT...
THIS IS A REALLY NICE CIGA-RETTE LIGHTER
BUT IT'S NOT A THING THAT A KID SHOULD HAVE
WAIT!
NARUSE SENSEI
RYO-CHAN!
YOU'RE RYO-CHAN, AREN'T YOU?
THIS PERSON... I THINK I KNOW HIM!

ABOUT 5 YEARS AGO, I LIVED HERE FOR THE WHOLE SUMMER, AND WE BECAME BEST FRIENDS...
I'M NATSUHIKO TAKAYA
HAVE YOU FORGOT ALREADY?
WHEN WE WERE SMALL, WE USE TO ALWAYS PLAY TOGETHER!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU ALREADY? I DON'T REMEMBER!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? WE WENT SWIMMING AT THE RIVER, AND YOU EVEN TAUGHT ME HOW TO CATCH A FISH!
HUH?
BUT YOU'RE RYO-CHAN, AREN'T YOU?
I DON'T REMEMBER

RYO-CHAN!
RUSTLE
HMM...
COULD IT BE... THAT HE ALREADY FORGOT ABOUT ME!
DOES THAT GUY LIVE NEARBY HERE?
YEAH...
IF I DIDN'T MISTAKE HIM FOR THE WRONG PERSON
BUT NARUSE SENSEI YOU WERE TOO SCARY,
SUDDENLY SCOLDING SOMEONE LIKE THAT
IF I SEE A SUSPICIOUS PERSON, OF COURSE, I'M GOING TO YELL AT THEM!
IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF YOU THIS SUMMER
IS BEING A PARLIAMENT COUNCILOR THAT AMAZING?
HOW COULD I FACE COUNCILOR TAKAYA, IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU?

DEPRESSED
DOES SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY COME AND STAY HERE FROM TIME TO TIME PERHAPS?
NOT THAT I KNOW OF.
STRANGE
IT LOOKS PRETTY CLEAN INSIDE
AND HERE I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE TO CLEAN IT!
THE COUNCILOR IS A VERY AMAZING PERSON!
AS HIS SON, IT'S A SHAME THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HIS VALUE
YOU THINK SO?
YES!
ERRR..
NATSU?
SINCE IT'S ALREADY CLEANED, WE CAN BEGIN OUR STUDY ONCE WE PUT AWAY OUR LUGGAGE
MAYBE THE MANAGEMENT COMPANY SENDS SOMEONE HERE TO CLEAN IT SOMETIMES
IN ANY CASE, I'M GLAD WE CAN RELAX MORE LIKE THIS

"HE"?
YOU MEAN THAT GUY EARLIER YOU CALLED RYO?
HIS NAME IS RYO ARISAKA

HE AND I HAD A REALLY GOOD RELATIONSHIP BACK THEN.
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT HE'D FORGET IT MAKES ME FEEL DISAP-POINTED.

THE OLD STORY OF "A YOUNG MASTER MEETS THE SON OF A SERVANT"/
WONDERING IF I COULD PLAY WITH HIM AS HE AND I WERE THE SAME AGE.
AND IT WAS HIS DAD WHO HAD BROUGHT HIM HERE,
DURING THAT SUMMER, HIS PARENTS TOOK CARE OF THIS BUNGALOW.
WE BECAME BEST FRIENDS BACK THEN...

DID YOU MAKE HIM ANGRY BY TRYING TO HAVE YOUR OWN WAY?
IT WASN'T THAT. IT WAS BECAUSE I COULDN'T GET USE TO THE COUNTRY,
I COULDN'T GET USE TO THE DIRT AND THE BUGS.
OH, THAT WASN'T HOW IT WENT...
WE HAD A BIG FIGHT WHEN WE FIRST MET, I BELIEVE.
DROP
SMASH
Eeek! There's a creepy bug on me!
Get it off me, quick!
Scurrying
Scurrying
AH
OH NO THAT'S...
BUT YOU PUT THAT CREEPY BUG ON ME...
HOW COULD YOU... I JUST WANTED YOU TO SEE MY TREASURE, NATSUHIKO...
COULD HIS TREASURE BE THIS BEETLE?

SINCE YOU SAID IT LIKE THAT I'LL FORGIVE YOU
I HAVE 10 MORE OF THEM, ANYWAY
You want to keep one? It even have dirty bodily fluid, too!
BUT LATER, I REALIZED HOW RARE THE BEETLES WERE, SO I APOLOGIZED,
I Lost the Fight.
BECAUSE IT WAS MY FAULT.
STRUGGLE!
STRUGGLE!
BUT IT WAS ALL OF A SUDDEN, AND YOU SCARED ME, TOO!
YOU KILLED IT, YOU BASTARD!
THEN WE STARTED FIGHTING,
THAT WAS, ALSO, THE FIRST TIME I WAS IN A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE

I THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE SOMEONE THAT WOULDN'T APOLOGIZE TO ANOTHER!
AFTER THAT WE BECAME BEST FRIENDS,
EVEN THOUGH I ALWAYS ACTED HEAD-STRONG, HE SAID HE LIKED MY PERSONALITY BECAUSE I WASN'T ADAMANT.
I LIKE RYO-CHAN BECAUSE HE WAS STRAIGHT FORWARD AND NEVER DRAGGED OUT OUR ARGUMENTS.
NO, THAT ONE BECAME THE START OF MY COLLECTION
THEN THE TWO OF YOU MADE A GRAVE FOR THE BEETLE?
That's a touching story.
Everyone praised me back then!

IT'S NOT ONLY THAT,
RYO-CHAN KNEW EVERY-THING AND COULD DO ANYTHING. HE WAS REALLY COOL.
AND HE WOULDN'T TRY TO SPOIL ME LIKE OTHER ADULTS DO,
YET HE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE ME A HAND WHEN I NEEDED SOME HELP.
EH?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, NARUSE-SENSEI?!
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE A GIRL THAT'S FALLEN IN LOVE
SEEING HOW MUCH YOU ENJOY TALKING ABOUT HIM,

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT...
BECAUSE I'VE NEVER COME BACK HERE SINCE THAT TIME,
SO...
EH?
UH...
IF THE TWO OF YOU WERE SO CLOSE BACK THEN, WHY DIDN'T YOU STAY IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER?
WHEN YOU'RE SMALL,
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT
OKAY, LET'S GO AND GET THE LUGGAGE!
YEAH...
I REALLY LIKED RYO-CHAN VERY MUCH
SO HOW COULD I FORGET HIM?

*Countless Time*
*extends their*
*warmest wishes*
*to all in having a*
*wonderful Holiday!*

*Merry Christmas,*
*Happy Hanukkah,*
*Happy Kwanzaa,*
*and*
*Have a Great New Year!!*

# COUNTLESS TIME

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## Ima wa Tooi Natsu

chapter 1b

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IT SEEMS LIKE... I'VE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING ELSE...
I'LL GO OPEN ALL THE WINDOWS TO LET THE AIR VENTILATE
PLEASE DO
THAT RYO, WHOM NATSUHIKO-KUN WAS TALKING ABOUT COULD HE REALLY BE THE SAME GUY WE MET JUST A WHILE AGO?
HE LOOKED SO DIFFERENT FROM THE PERSON YOU SAID HE WAS
THERE'S AN ENGLISH NAME ENGRAVED ON IT
A TAKEUCHI
!

Tap Tap
THAT'S WEIRD,
ONE OF THE LOCKS CAN'T BE OPENED
WHICH ONE?
THE ROOM IN THE EAST CORNER
IT'S THE BEST ROOM HERE I WANTED TO SLEEP THERE, ACTUALLY
WE PROBABLY HAVEN'T BROUGHT ALL THE KEYS
ANYWAY LET'S START STUDYING NOW
WE'LL START WITH MATH
WHAT !
WHAT ARE YOU CRYING ABOUT? DIDN'T YOU VOLUNTEER TO COME HERE?
YES
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT...

GOOD NIGHT, SENSEI!
NI-SAN...
UH, SORRY...!
HE DROVE A LONG WAY TODAY,
NO WONDER HE IS EXHAUSTED.
BUT HE'LL BE EVEN STRICTER STARTING TOMORROW,
Wipe
SINCE MY RESULTS SAID IT'S A BIT DIFFICULT FOR ME TO GET IN THE SCHOOL I WANT TO GO..
I'LL GO VISIT RYO-CHAN ONCE WE'VE SETTLED DOWN...
Frustrated

Hi.
PULL
RYO-
SHHH!

BE QUIET,
OR YOUR CHAPERON WILL COME IN.
NARUSE-SENSEI IS MY HOME TUTOR,
NOT MY CHAPERON.
ISN'T THAT THE SAME? HE STILL PLAYS THE ROLE OF YOUR CHAPERON
THE LOOK HE GAVE ME THIS MORNING WAS SO HOSTILE.
IF HE KNEW THAT HIS PRECIOUS YOUNG MASTER IS HAVING A RENDEZ-VOUS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, HE'D HAVE ME BEATEN HALF TO DEATH.
RENDEZ-VOUS?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S JUST SO LIKE YOU, RYO-CHAN!

Creak
WHEN YOU SAID THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ME THIS AFTERNOON,
I FELT SO DEPRESSED BECAUSE I THOUGHT I MISTOOK SOMEONE ELSE FOR RYO-CHAN
WHY DID YOU SAY THAT?
AH! IS IT BECAUSE YOU WERE MISTAKEN FOR AN ARSONIST THAT YOU WERE MAD?
Mumble
ITS NOT EXACTLY A MISUNDER-STANDING EITHER
HUH?
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER RETURN
THAT'S
BECAUSE I WANTED TO STAY HERE AND STUDY FOR MY UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS
WHY DID YOU THINK I WOULD NEVER RETURN HERE AGAIN?

EH?
BECAUSE...
YOU WENT THROUGH
THAT TERRIFYING INCIDENT.
SO YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO COME BACK AND RELIVE IT AGAIN, WOULD YOU?

YOU'VE REALLY FORGOTTEN!
DID I SEE A GHOST?
WHAT IS IT?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN TO ME?
IT WAS AT THIS VERY HOUSE
IT'S A PRETTY WELL-KNOWN HAUNTED HOUSE
EEHH?
NO WAY,
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THIS BEFORE!
TSK, TSK

A TERRIFYING MONSTER LIVES IN ONE OF THE ROOMS OF THIS MANSION...
WHEN NIGHT COMES, IT COMES OUT LOOKING FOR A BLOOD SACRIFICE
ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS WHEN THE WIND IS HOWLING, THE BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAMS OF THE SACRIFICES CAN BE HEARD FROM HOUSEHOLDS NEAR AND FAR...
3 A.M.
EEK!
THAT ROOM... DOESN'T HAPPEN TO BE IN THE EAST CORNER OF THIS HOUSE, DOES IT?

WHOMP
EH?!
UH
RYO-CHAN?
YOU...
FUU!
NATSU, YOU...
YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVED IT!
HA HA!
Lean
HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL
RYO, YOU TRICKED ME!
AHAHAHA!

WHY
IS IT ONLY YOU
THAT HASN'T CHANGED?
RYO!?
yank

HAH!
Squeeze
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DION'T I JUST SAY?
I AM HERE FOR A RENDEZVOUS
Y-YOU'RE JOKING!
I WOULDN'T BE DOING THIS IF I WAS JOKING, WOULD I?
R-
RYO!
PUNCH
Grab
Cough
STOP IT!

OW!
Pull
Kiss
AHH...
RYO-CHAN... IS TOUCHING... MY...

Twitch
YOU REALLY ARE REACTING!
HA HA...!
RYO..
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE TOO
IT'S NOT FAIR THAT YOU'VE REMAINED INNOCENT
DON'T!
AH! STOP IT!
Insert
WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE...
THAT I COULD DO IT THIS WAY.

AAGH!
THRUST
AAA~AHHHH!
AAGHH!
Rub
Thrust
RYO!
STROKE

AH...
NATSU...
RYO...

Rustle
Rustle
NATSU-KUN!
NARUSE SENSEI?
I HEARD SOME SOUNDS
NATSU-KUN...!
DON'T TELL ME... YOU...
NOTHING HAPPENED, SENSEI!
FLAP
FLAP
DO I...
LOOK ANY DIFFERENT?

AND THAT'S WHY RYO HAS CHANGED
IF YOU SAY THERE'S NOTHING
BUT EVEN SO, I STILL FELT SO WARM IN HIS ARMS.
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED THAT SUMMER

# Countless Time

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# Ima wa Tooi Natsu

## Chapter 2

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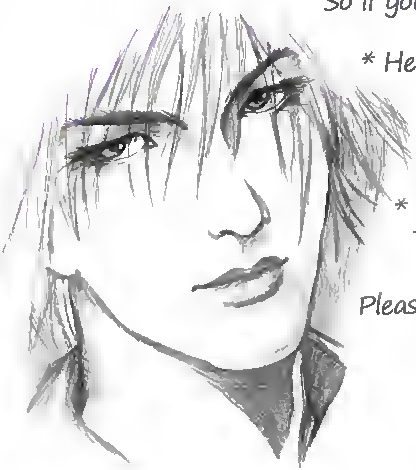
# Countless-Time

is looking for dedicated Japanese Translators.

So if you would like to:

* Help spread the love around.
* Believe you can do a good job
* And be a part of a Great Team,

Please don't hesitate to contact us.



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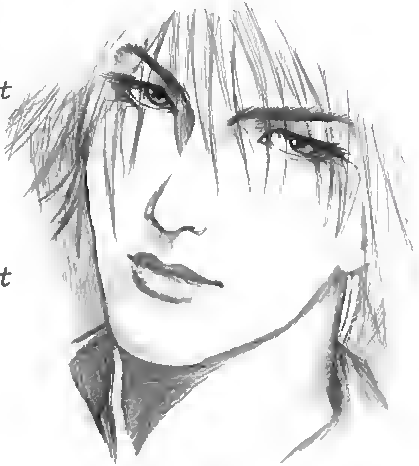

Contact us at:
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Act 2

THIS IS YOUR REPORTER, REPORTING FROM THE FRONT OF THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE WHERE THINGS ARE HEATING UP AND IT'S——
turn off

THE POPULAR SENATOR TAKAYA NOW HAS EVERYONE'S ATTENTION FOCUSED ON HIS EVERY MOVEMENT.
MR. AKIHITO TAKAYA

I ALWAYS SEE DAD ON THE NEWS THESE DAYS
BUT I HARDLY GET TO SEE HIM IN PERSON
THAT'S BECAUSE THIS IS THE SENATOR'S BUSIEST TIME
HE'S BUSY WITH ALL THE CHANGE AND REFORM

I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR POLITICS
AIYAH! YOUNG MASTER NATSU-SAN WILL BE TAKING OVER THE MASTER'S PROFESSION IN THE FUTURE, WON'T YOU?
IS IT OKAY TO SAY THIS?
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY UNDERSTAND POLITICS ANYWAY!
ME NEITHER!
SHARE
DOTES, HUH...
AND THAT'S WHY I KNOW HOW MUCH THE MASTER DOTES ON HIS ONLY SON. YOU, YOUNG MASTER NATSU-SAN
NO SUCH THING!
I FOLLOWED THE MISTRESS HERE, AND HAVE WORKED HERE FOR 20 YEARS ALREADY. I'VE BEEN WATCHING ALL THIS TIME,
AND, I DON'T THINK DAD'S HOLDING OUT ANY HOPES FOR ME ANYWAY
I HAVEN'T YET SEEN A BETTER MAN THAN OUR MASTER!
THAT'S BECAUSE SETSU-SAN IS A BIG FAN OF DAD!
I HARDLY SEE HIM THESE DAYS...
SAYING I'M THE ONLY SON PROBABLY ISN'T RIGHT EITHER,
BUT I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS TO OBAASAN SETSU-SAN

MUM PASSED AWAY SEVERAL YEARS AGO
THE MASTER AND MISTRESS LOOKED LIKE THE GOLDEN COUPLE WHEN THEY STOOD TOGETHER
ALTHOUGH WE CAN ONLY LOOK AT THEIR PHOTO-GRAPHS NOW.
Ha...
BUT YOUNG MASTER NATSU-SAN REALLY RESEMBLES THE MISTRESS,
SO IT'S ALL RIGHT EVEN IF YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE THE MASTER, BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL SO HANDSOME
AH!
REALLY?!
THEN MAYBE I SHOULD TRY BEING AN ACTOR!
INCREASING YOUR RECOGNITION ON TELEVISION FIRST BEFORE TURNING TO POLITICS,
JUST LIKE THE SON OF THE PRIME MINISTER...
RIGHT YOUNG MASTER NATSU-SAN?
THAT'S RIGHT! THERE ARE ACTORS WHO LATER BECAME PRESIDENTS
I WAS ONLY JOKING...
RUNS AWAY

I DIDN'T MANAGE TO TAKE THE UNIVERSITY EXAMS BECAUSE I WANT TO FOLLOW MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS.
AM I THINKING TOO MUCH?
THE PAIN OF REMEMBERING HIS LATE WIFE AND ALL THAT——
LOOK LIKE MUM? HUH?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF MY FACE THAT DAD DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME
*into the political arena
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I WANT THAT PERSON'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
SETSU-SAN—
ISN'T DAD'S BIRTHDAY APPROACHING?
EH? YEAH!

HELP YOU SHOP FOR A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR SENATOR TAKAYA?
NARUSE SENSEI, CAN I TROUBLE YOU TO GO SHOPPING WITH ME FOR IT?
YES!
SORRY, IT'S BECAUSE I'M REALLY PRESSED FOR TIME AND I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT IT.
I'M FINE WITH IT
BUT I'LL BE EVEN STRICTER DURING OUR NEXT LESSON!
YES!
SENSEI IS REALLY A MODEL TUTOR!
BUT, WHAT SHOULD WE BUY? I'M REALLY UNSURE...
WHAT DO MEN HIS AGE LIKE?

RECEIVING A PRESENT FROM HIS OWN CHILD, I'M SURE HE'LL LIKE IT NO MATTER WHAT IT IS.
NN
BUT SINCE I'M GIVING HIM SOMETHING, I SHOULD PUT SOME THOUGHT INTO IT, SHOULDN'T I?
WHAT ABOUT A LIGHTER?
DOES THE SENATOR SMOKE?
A LIGHTER ...
A LIGHTER HUH?
AND THEN GET HIS NAME ENGRAVED ON IT.
ACTUALLY, I WISH HE WOULD STOP SMOKING.
BUT...
EH?!
A LIGHTER ...

RYO-CHAN?!
WHY IS HE HERE?
HE SHOULD BE IN N CITY!
WAIT!
NATSU-SAN?
AFTER DOING THOSE THINGS TO ME THAT NIGHT,
HE ACTU-ALLY DIS-APPEARED ON ME

WHERE IS HE?
bump
AH! I'M SORRY
WHY IS HE IN TOKYO?
EH?
RYO-CHAN—
WHO DID YOU SEE?
SENSEI!
Rushe
DID I SEE WRONGLY?!
HE DISAP-PEARED!
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!

DO I HAVE TO WEAR THIS THING?
MANY CUSTOMERS FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE WEARING A SUIT FOR THE FIRST TIME,
BUT YOU'RE NOT JUST TALL, BUT VERY WELL-BUILT TOO
IT REALLY SUITS YOU, SIR
YOU'LL KNOW VERY SOON
WHAT'S THE EVENT?
RYO...
WHATEVER THE EVENT YOU'RE ATTENDING, YOU SHOULD DRESS APPROPRIATELY.

THATS GREAT,
WE BOUGHT SOMETHING NICE
NN...
ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THAT PERSON JUST NOW?
EHP!
I'M NOT!
HE'S CALLED RYO ARISAKA, RIGHT?

DID SENSEI SEE RYO-CHAN TOO?
I DIDN'T SEE, BUT I COULD GUESS FROM THE WAY YOU LOOKED FOR HIM SO FRANTICALLY
SO I'M RIGHT...
PUTTING WORDS IN MY MOUTH, THAT'S NOT FAIR...
DO YOU LOVE RYO-KUN THAT MUCH?
EH!
SEN... SENSEI?!
SPEED UP

VROOOM
SHUT UP, OR YOU'LL BITE YOUR TONGUE!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
THAT'S SO DANGEROUS!
WAH!
Wah!
I DIDN'T KNOW...
THAT SENSE! BELONGS TO A CAR RACING GANG
THAT'S NOT COMPLETELY CORRECT.
I JUST WANTED TO SCARE YOU.
SENSEI?!

recline
WAH!
JOLT
SEN-SEI?!
HE'S SO STRONG, I CAN'T RESIST!
YOU'RE HURTING MY HAND.
SENSEI, WHAT ARE YOU ANGRY ABOUT?

I DIDN'T WANT TO EXPOSE YOU THAT TIME, SO I PRETENDED I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING.
YOU DIDN'T THINK I REALLY BELIEVED WHAT YOU SAID, DID YOU?
NATSU-KUN,
YOU...
LET THAT MAN-
DO THIS SORT OF THING TO YOU?

THAT'S
THAT'S NONE OF SENSEI'S BUSINESS
UNZIP
AH!
HEY! TAKE YOUR HAND AWAY!
!
SENSEI!

twitch
ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
WHY...
NN!
AH!
...
Hah
Hah
WHY
SENSEI...
Hah
SPLASH

...
YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED HOW I'VE FELT ABOUT YOU ALL THIS TIME,
NATSU-KUN?
THAT'S WHY I'M JEALOUS OF RYO-KUN
SEN...
!
NATSU-KUN, I—

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## Ima wa Tooi Natsu

### Chapter 3

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COUNTLESS TIME
We are looking for dedicated people who can help us to spread the love around. We're currently open for applications for:
Scanner(s),
Editor
and
Japanese Translator(s).
Please don't hesitate to contact us.
Send an email to:
minako.scan [at] gmail.com
countless-time [at] tasuu.net

Act 3

TOWARDS YOU I'VE ALWAYS...
NO!
DON'T... SENSEI!
NATSU -KUN!
RATHER THAN LET-TING THAT MAN STEAL YOU AWAY, I'D RATHER I WAS THE ONE...!

RYO ...!!
Grab
IT HURTS ...!
!!

BEEP BEE
P!!
I DON'T WANT THIS!
SLAM!

URGH!
Creak
YEA...
SEN ...

SEN SEI
Rustle
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO CONTINUE THEN PUT YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON

I'M SORRY..
IT WASN'T MY ORIGINAL INTENTION TO DO THIS

SEN...
SENSEI, SURELY YOU ALREADY HAVE A GIRLFRIEND
SO WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU LIKE ME?
I FRIGHTENED YOU...
THAT'S RIGHT,
I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT I LIKED HER TOO...
BUT,
WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW YOU ONLY HAVE EYES FOR RYO-KUN, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL IRRITATED
EVEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I'M SO JEALOUS

EH?!
FIRED?
WILL I BE FIRED?
BEING A MAN AND HARBORING THESE KINDS OF FEELINGS TOWARDS YOU ISN'T ALLOWED
MORE-OVER, IN MY SOCIAL STANDING AS YOUR TUTOR
TH...THAT SORT OF THING IS...
IF SENSEI RESIGNS NOW THEN I'M IN BIG TROUBLE
I CAN ONLY RELY ON SENSEI FOR THE UPCOMING EXAMS
FOR YOUR EXAMS, HUH
SHOULD I BE HAPPY THAT I'M STILL OF SOME VALUE TO YOU?
THAT'S...
AM I SUCH A SELF-CENTERED PERSON?
I'LL TAKE YOU BACK

Glance
SENSEI LIKES ME?
I'VE NEVER HEARD HIM
SAY THAT BEFORE
TREATING ME THAT
WAY SO SUDDENLY...
...

I DON'T HATE SENSE!
BUT...
I KNOW WHAT THAT'S ALL ABOUT.
I KNOW THE HE...T WHEN TWO BODIES FUSE\AS ONE.
BA-DUMP
ONLY A LITTLE MORE AND HE WOULD HAVE ENTERED MY INTIMATE PLACE...

BUT IN YOUR HEART YOU CAN ONLY ACCEPT RYO ARISAKA
NNN...
I DON'T KNOW IF RYO-CHAN LIKES ME,
SO WHY DID HE DO THAT—
AND THEN SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A WORD?

Pat
WE...
NATSU-KUN AND I, BOTH HAVE AN UNREQUITED LOVE
EH...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND RYO-CHAN AT ALL...
I UNDERSTAND HOW IT FEELS TO LOVE A PERSON, AND THE PAIN OF NOT HAVING YOUR FEELINGS RETURNED
AH! SORRY, COULDN'T HELP MYSELF
WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW... IT'S ALRIGHT ALTHOUGH IT FRIGHTENED ME
SENSEI...
SENSEI IS KIND, LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER
SINCE I'M AN ONLY CHILD, IT MAKES ME HAPPY BEING FAWNED OVER LIKE THIS

ELDER BROTH-ER, HUH?
IF YOU FEEL THIS WAY THEN I'M SATISFIED.
Ruffle
BEING YOUR ELDER BROTHER AND YOUR TUTOR I'M THE CLOSEST PERSON TO YOU NOW, RIGHT?

TODAY, UM...
THANK YOU, SENSEI.
GOOD NIGHT

STEP
OR AM I A "KEEPER-KUN"?
*Someone kept as a boy/girlfriend until someone better comes along
BEING CONSIDERED A LOVING OLDER BROTHER ISN'T JUST A NICE WAY OF REJECTING ONE?
EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE, I STILL LIKE YOU, NATSU-KUN.
YOUR IGNORANCE AND YOUR GULLIBILITY
AND THAT YOUR FAMILY HAS PRODUCED GENERATIONS OF SENATORS AND POLITICIANS.
I WON'T GIVE UP...

Creak
PIOP
I'M SO TIRED...
ALTHOUGH NARUSE-SENSEI GAVE ME A SCARE...
EVERYTHING SHOULD BE ALRIGHT NOW, RIGHT?
HE SHOULD KNOW HOW I FEEL NOW
AM I BEING SELFISH?
IF IT'S POSSIBLE I HOPE WE CAN RETAIN THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAD

RUSTLE
I WANT NO ONE ELSE BUT RYO-CHAN
BUT I'M VERY CERTAIN OF ONE THING
THE GIFT SENSEI HELPED ME CHOOSE TO GIVE TO DAD
ARE YOU ASLEEP, SETSU-SAN?
DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE TO TALK?
DAD'S BIRTHDAY IS THIS FRIDAY RIGHT? I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE A BANQUET
IF IT'S ONLY FOR A DAY, I THINK DAD SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF
AIYAH! YOUNG MASTER NATSU,
I HEARD THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A PARTY HELD AT A HOTEL THAT DAY!
EH?

INCLUDING SETSU-SAN
I WAS HOPING THIS WOULD BE A SMALL, FAMILY-ONLY CELEBRATION.
YOU'RE TOO KIND.
YOU LOOK GREAT, YOUNG MASTER NATSU
Stray Kitten
WELL, THEY ARE HIS ASSOCIATES
IN ANY CASE, IT TURNED OUT TO BE A GATHERING FOR DAD'S FELLOW POLITICIANS AND O'-SANS* FROM THE FINANCIAL WORLD AND SUCH.
IT WON'T BE FUN AT ALL.
*Rude Japanese term for middle-aged men
I DON'T THINK SO.
THERE MAY BE SOME YOUNG LADIES SIMILAR TO YOUNG MASTER'S AGE ATTENDING THE PARTY TOO!

THE HOTEL GRAND PALACE
Chatter
Chatter
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVITATION TONIGHT.
NARUSE-SENSEI.
DON'T MENTION IT.
NATSU-KUN!

Chatter
Chatter
THE BIG NAMES IN POLITICS, THE CORPORATE WORLD, AND SHOWBIZ ARE ALL HERE
WELL, I'M NOT TOO SURE...
AS EXPECTED FROM TAKAYA-SENSEI,
HE ORGANIZED A MARVELOUS GATHERING!

NATSU-KUN, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO PAY MY RESPECTS
OH— YEAH
CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY WITH SUCH EXTRAVAGANCE IS A BIT GRANDIOSE, ISN'T IT?
IT'S LIKE THERE'S GOING TO BE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT...
LIKE THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY?

I HAVEN'T SEEN DAD FOR SUCH A LONG TIME
HARD TO BELIEVE WE'RE ACTUALLY RELATED BY BLOOD!
DAD
Screech
EH!

OUR HONORED GUESTS! FIRST, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYBODY FOR TAKING PRECIOUS TIME OUT FROM THEIR BUSY SCHEDULE TO ATTEND...
SENATOR AKIHITO TAKAYA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!
IT SEEMS LIKE AN ACTIVITY'S STARTING
I'LL GO PAY MY RESPECTS LATER...
YOUR DRINK, SIR.
THANK YOU...
CHEERS!
WELL WISHES...
Clink
Clink
Clink
CHEERS!
YOU SHOULDN'T DRINK TOO MUCH, YOU'RE UNDERAGE AFTER ALL.
AH! IT TASTES GREAT!
SETSU-SAN TOLD ME THAT WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG YOU FINISHED A WHOLE BOTTLE OF SWEET COCKTAIL LIQUEUR ALL BY YOURSELF!
YOU WERE COMPLETELY DRUNK!
THAT'S TOO MUCH! THAT HAPPENED SO LONG AGO...

GOOD, MIMORI-SENSEI IS BACK TO HIS OLD SELF AGAIN.
NAT-SUHIKO-KUN, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
AH! IT'S BEEN A WHILE, UNCLE MIMORI!
WHY DOES HE NEED TO ADOPT A SON?
HE ALREADY HAS YOU!
EHH...
I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I HEARD!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT WITH IT, NATSUHIKO-KUN? HAVE YOU ALREADY AGREED?!
HE'S MY MOM'S ELDER BROTHER
EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING

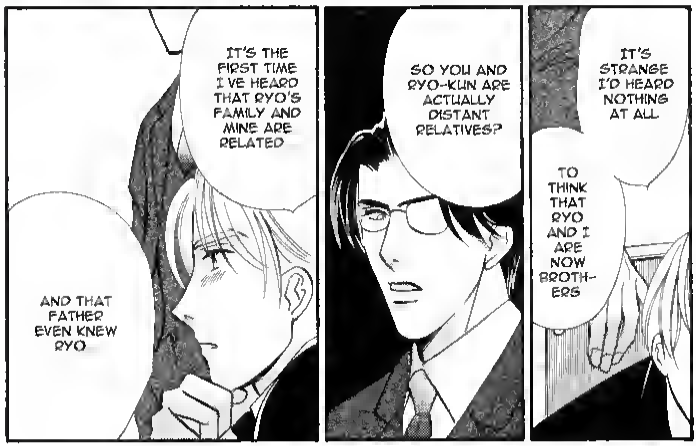
RYO!
OVER HERE
YES...
I INVITED EVERYONE HERE TODAY WITH THE INTENTION OF INTRODUCING THIS YOUNG MAN.
RYO TAKAYA
HE'S A DISTANT RELATIVE OF MINE AND TODAY, HE WILL FORMALLY TAKE ON MY NAME.
AS OF TODAY, HIS SURNAME ARISAKA WILL BE CHANGED TO TAKAYA.
RYO IS HERE?

...
NATSUHIKO, COME HERE.
RYO TAKAYA AND NATSUHIKO TAKAYA
ARE MY FUTURE SUCCESSORS
I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE THEM YOUR GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT
RYO...?

I FEEL THAT HE HAS ENORMOUS POTENTIAL THAT IS WHY I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE HIM IN AS MY ADOPTED SON
RYO-KUN HAS EXCELLENT GRADES IN SCHOOL AND...
FROM TODAY ONWARDS, THE TWO OF YOU ARE BROTHERS
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER RYO?
NATSUHIKO,
RYO-TAKAYA?
ELDER BROTHER!!
YOU TWO SHOULD GET ALONG WELL.
THAT MEANS RYO IS NATSUHIKO'S ELDER BROTHER.
RYO WAS BORN IN MAY?

Squeeze
RYO IS MY ELDER BROTHER?
...
NICE TO MEET YOU, NATSUHIKO.
I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME PEOPLE
COME WITH ME, RYO
THIS WAY

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
THIS...
I...
Sit
CLOMP


IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD THAT RYO'S FAMILY AND MINE ARE RELATED
AND THAT FATHER EVEN KNEW RYO...
SO YOU AND RYO-KUN ARE ACTUALLY DISTANT RELATIVES?
IT'S STRANGE I'D HEARD NOTHING AT ALL
TO THINK THAT RYO AND I ARE NOW BROTHERS

SOMEHOW, IT SEEMS LIKE NATSUHIKO-KUN WASN'T IN-FORMED AT ALL.
YOU'D BETTER NOT MAKE TOO MANY CARELESS REMARKS..
YOU'RE RIGHT
NATSU-KUN!
IS AKI-HITO-KUN'S ILLEGIT-IMATE SON...!
DON'T TELL ME THAT PERSON...
I'VE SEEN THAT OLD MAN ON TELEVI-SION
HE'S THE VENERABLE URUKATA A RETIRED GOVERNING PARTY HEAVY-WEIGHT!
HE'S THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THAT BANK THAT CREATED UPROAR OVER ITS RECENT MERGER
IS THAT HIS GRAND-DAUGH-TER?
HE PROBABLY INTENDS TO NOMINATE HER AS A POTENTIAL BRIDE FOR RYO-KUN WITH-OUT DELAY

NATSU-KUN, YOU'RE ANGRY AT ME?
I'M NOT MR. MIMORI, BUT—
I DON'T LIKE YOU TALKING THIS WAY
HE BROUGHT HER HERE TO MEET NATSU-KUN, AND PROBABLY WANTS TO MAKE A PITCH FOR THE NEW OLDER BROTHER TOO!
THAT'S MY IMPRESSION
SENSE!!
I KNOW NOTHING OF HIS BRILLIANCE, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S PRETTY PROUD OF HIS NEW SON, DON'T YOU THINK?
HE ALREADY HAS YOU FOR A SON!
SO WHY DID HE ADOPT RYO-KUN TO SUCCEED HIM WITHOUT DISCUSSING IT WITH YOU FIRST? AND HOLDING SUCH AN ELABORATE PARTY JUST TO INTRODUCE HIM!

REASON?
WHATEVER THE REASON, IT'S THE SAME!
THERE MAY BE SOME REASON FOR THIS
NATSU-KUN?
MR. TAKAYA, WHAT ARE YOUR IN-TENTIONS?
EVEN I FEEL ANGRY!
CLATTER
I'M GOING OUTSIDE FOR SOME FRESH AIR
NATSU-KUN!
I'LL ACCOM-PANY YOU!
GRAB

I'LL GO.
YE YES
THAT IS, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
RYO!!

# Countless Time

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## Ima wa Tooi Natsu

### Chapter 4

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Act 4

WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE SUMMER
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
NATSU,
LONG TIME NO SEE.
RYOU-CHAN...
AH...
Step

WAIT!
NATSU, DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME?
I...
I HAVE NOTHING I WANT TO SAY TO YOU!
NOTHING AT ALL?
NOTHING...
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
LET... LET GO OF ME!
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT TONIGHT'S EVENTS SO I'M CONFUSED, SO
I'D LIKE TO BE ALONE.

AND THAT'S IT?
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT STILL BE SULKING,
BECAUSE I WENT HOME AND LEFT YOU ALONE THAT NIGHT
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN?
HOW COULD I FORGET?
I'VE BEEN TORMENTED...
SINCE THAT SUMMER DAY
I COULDN'T FORGET...
AN INTENSE EXPERIENCE LIKE THAT EVEN IF I WANTED TO!

HAVING DONE SUCH A THING TO ME THAT SUMMER NIGHT,
HOW CAN YOU APPEAR BEFORE ME, SMILING SMUGLY?
AND WHAT'S MORE, BECOMING MY BROTHER!
YOU'VE BEEN THINKING OF ME ALL ALONG?
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!
I HAD THOUGHT THAT FINALLY, I FOUND MY LONG LOST CHILDHOOD FRIEND. THE ONE I HAD PLAYED WITH AS A KID. BUT WITHOUT ANY WARNING I WAS ASSAULTED!
UNEXPECTEDLY HE TURNED OUT TO BE A DISTANT RELATIVE. AND AS OF TODAY, IS TO BE ADOPTED INTO THE TAKAYA FAMILY!
FATHER NEVER EVEN TOLD ME ANYTHING.

OUR RELATIONSHIP ISN'T THE KIND WHERE WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT
I CAN'T TELL MY FATHER THAT SORT OF THING!
IF HE DID, THEN THERE'D BE NO TALK OF ANY ADOPTION
I DOUBT HE KNOWS WHAT I'VE DONE.
NOTHING.
LIKE THAT!
IT'S BECAUSE NO ONE TOLD ME ANYTHING!
DID IT SEEM AS IF I'VE STOLEN YOUR FATHER?
BLUSH
I'M SURE YOU'RE QUITE SHOCKED THAT I'LL BE YOUR ADOPTED BROTHER
VERY MUCH SO.
ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT TOTALLY UNRELATED

YOU'VE PROBABLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT INCIDENT
WHAT INCIDENT?
THE REASON WHY TAKAYA-SHI HAS ADOPTED ME IS DUE TO THE KIDNAPPING THAT HAPPENED 5 YEARS AGO
KIDNAP-PING...?
IT'S ALSO THE REASON WHY YOU DECIDED NEVER TO VISIT THE MOUNTAIN VILLA AGAIN.
THAT SUMMER, 15 YEARS AGO, WE WERE LIKE BROTHERS, PLAYING TOGETHER FROM DAWN TO DUSK.

OH NO!
IT'S GOING TO BE DARK SOON, WE HAVE TO HURRY BACK
EH? ALREADY?
BUT WE'RE ALMOST DONE WITH OUR HIDEOUT!
JUST A LITTLE LONGER
BUT FATHER SCOLDED ME BECAUSE OF THAT, THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
"HOW COULD YOU HAVE ENDANGERED THE YOUNG MASTER?!"
IS WHAT HE SAID
DON'T CALL ME "YOUNG MASTER"!
AREN'T WE GOOD FRIENDS?
YOUR FATHER ENTRUSTED ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU, BUT
EVEN IF HE HAD NOT ASKED, I WOULD STILL PROTECT YOU
RYOU-CHAN

YES!
OH
YOUR HAND!
COME ON, NATSU
THOUGH OUR PARENTS MAY HAVE VARIOUS TROUBLES, IT DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH US
WE'LL HOLD EACH OTHER'S HANDS
ALWAYS
THIS ISN'T GOOD, IT'S ALREADY DARK OUT

SLAM
WHICH ONE OF YOU IS SENATOR AKIHITO TAKAYA'S SON?
HEY! YOU BRATS!
UNTIL THEN I NEVER FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT NATSU WAS THE CHILD OF A PROMI-NENT FAMILY
I I AM!
I'M TAKAYA'S SON!
RY
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SHHHH!
DON'T SPEAK!

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE
I DON'T KNOW HIM
COME ON, GET IN THE CAR!
I'M HERE TO PICK YOU UP
HURRY UP! EVERYONE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
HIS BEHAVIOUR WAS OBVIOUSLY SUSPICIOUS, SO...
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO GROWNUPS!
RUN, NATSU!
OUCH!
Kick
YOU BRAT!

THUD
ZOOM
SLAM
RY...
RYOU-CHAN!
RYOU-CHAN!
IN THE END I WAS MISTAKEN FOR YOU AND WAS TAKEN
A WEEK AFTER PAYING 10 MILLION IN RANSOM ALONE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS I WAS SAFELY RESCUED
OF COURSE, THE MONEY WAS PAID BY YOUR FATHER
SINCE MY FAMILY DIDN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY,
AND BECAUSE I WAS KIDNAPPED INSTEAD OF YOU

SOME-THING LIKE THAT...
YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN TOO SCARED.
HOW COULD I FORGET SOME-THING LIKE THAT?
THAT MAY BE WHY YOU FORGOT.
BUT RYOU-CHAN,
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE AFRAID THAN ME!
YOU WERE ABDUCTED BY THE KIDNAP-PERS FOR A WHOLE WEEK
RYOU-CHAN
I WAS DRUGGED THE WHOLE ENTIRE TIME
SO I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER
LUCKILY...

AFTER THAT, THE TAKAYA FAMILY STARTED SUPPORTING ME
IF IT WASN'T FOR YOUR HELP, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE BECOME OF NATSUHIKO
HE TOLD ME THAT IF I WANTED TO CONTINUE MY STUDIES, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO COME TO TOKYO. THE ADOPTION WAS UNEXPECTED...
PLEASE LET ME DO SOMETHING IN RETURN
HONESTLY, WHAT I DID DOESN'T WARRANT SUCH COMPENSATION, BUT
IT'S NOT SUCH A BAD THING EITHER
SUCH A THING...
I...

THAT'S NOT IT!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
ARE YOU SO UNWILLING TO BECOME BROTHERS WITH ME?
I'M THE ONE WHO HAD FORGOTTEN, BUT YET I BLAMED YOU FOR GIVING ME THE COLD SHOULDER,
I'M SUCH A JERK
IT'S ALL
IT'S MY FAULT THAT RYOU-CHAN HAD TO SUFFER LIKE THAT!
Rub
WHAT'S EVEN WORSE... I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT!

NATSUHIKO
WHEN I WAS OFFERED TO BECOME TAKAYA'S ADOPTED SON
YOU WERE THE FIRST THING I THOUGHT OF

IF WE BECAME BROTHERS, IF I COULD BE WITH YOU
HOW COULD I HAVE REFUSED SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT?
RYOU...

RYOU...
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN ON MY MIND
MY FEELINGS FOR YOU REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM 5 YEARS AGO
IS IT TRUE?
RYOU-CHAN LIKES ME TOO?
IT ISN'T JUST ONE-SIDED ON MY PART?
YOU'RE STILL SUCH A CRY-BABY...

OH...
CAN THIS BE TRUE...?
I CAN'T BE... LIEVE THAT RYOU-CHAN LIKES ME TOO
NN...

DOING THIS IN SUCH A PUBLIC PLACE WHERE ANYONE CAN SEE THEM... IT COULD BECOME A SCANDAL IF THEY WERE DISCOVERED!
REALLY!

IF YOU THINK EVERYTHING WILL GO SMOOTHLY FROM HERE, YOU ARE HIGHLY MISTAKEN
YOU TWO...
IT SURE FEELS BITTER FOR SOMEONE REJECTED LIKE ME TO CHANCE UPON THIS OVERLY SWEET SCENE
Snatch
C N YOU FORGIVE ME FOR DOING SUCH AN WFUL THING TO YOU?
AWFUL THING? ARE YOU REFERRING TO THAT SUMMER NIGHT?

I LOST CONTROL WHEN I THOUGHT THAT YOU HAD FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME
BUT THE THOUGHT OF YOU HATING ME FILLED ME WITH REGRET
I WAS SHOCKED, BUT... I DIDN'T HATE IT
REALLY?
WE'RE VERY WELL-MATCHED AFTER ALL!
IT WASN'T JUST PAINFUL, RIGHT?
AH!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!
NO, THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!
RYOU... -CHAN?

I MIGHT END UP HURTING YOU AGAIN, NATSU
EH WHY?
DON'T TELL ME IT'S BECAUSE HE'S GOING TO MAKE LOVE TO ME AGAIN?
DON'T TELL ME...
ARE YOU THINKING PERVERTED THOUGHTS?
YOU'RE BLUSHING!
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WILL PROTECT YOU
MY CHILDHOOD PROMISE WILL NEVER CHANGE

I KISSED RYOU-CHAN...
HE SAID HE THINKS ABOUT ME
I'M NOT DREAMING, AM I?
NATSU.
ONCE THE PAPERWORK AND PROCEDURES ARE FINALIZED, I'LL BE MOVING INTO THE TAKAYA HOUSE. SO,
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME THEN!
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT.

SHIT.
IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR IS THERE SOME SORROW BEHIND THAT SMILE?
SEEING THAT CHEERFUL EXPRESSION RETURN ON HIS FACE...
HE WAS REALLY HAPPY.
@YOU...
...STILL, WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING?
I HOPE YOU WILL SHOW ME ALL OF YOU, BUT...

AH! IT'S SO UNCOM-FORTABLE!
WEARING A TUXEDO DOES NOT SUIT ME AT ALL.
Grab
XO
THE WOMEN ESPECIALLY LOOKED AT YOU IN AWE
THAT'S NOT TRUE EVERYBODY NOTICED YOU
AS EXPECTED OF THE YOUNG MAN AKIHITO TAKAYA IS INTERESTED IN

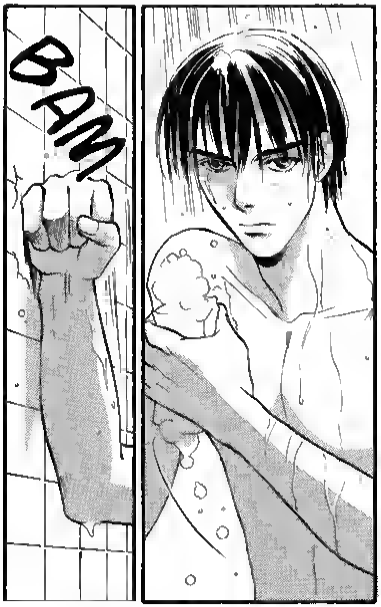
NO, THANKS
YOU KNOW I'M UNDER AGED, DON'T YOU?
DO YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK, TOO?

YET HERE YOU ARE ACTING LIKE A GOOD STUDENT
YOU SMOKE.

AND DESPITE APPEAR-ANCES, I AM RATHER POPULAR
DIDN'T YOU DECIDE TO ADOPT ME KNOWING THESE THINGS?
I'M NOT ACTING
I'VE REMAINED AT THE TOP PERCENTILE IN THE NATIONAL MOCK EXAMS, AND EVERYONE PREDICTS THAT I WILL EASILY GET INTO MY FIRST CHOICE OF UNIVERSITY
AND UNTIL LAST SPRING, I HAVE SEEN IN THE SCHOOL'S STUDENT COUNCIL.

Ding dong!
OH
ROOM SERVICE HAS SENT DINNER
I'LL GO TAKE A BATH
GO AHEAD
RATTLE
WILL YOU PLEASE...
?
REALLY?
SO YOU DO UNDER-STAND

AREN'T YOU NATSUHIKO'S TUTOR?
WE'VE MET BEFORE
MY APOLOGIES FOR DISTURBING YOU SO LATE, BUT IT WAS INCONVENIENT TO TALK AT THE PARTY


BAM

NATSU

CLATTER
WHY ARE YOU INVESTIGATING THESE THINGS?
NO, I'M JUST
DO YOU PLAN ON BLACKMAILING ME?
YOU HAVE SOME NERVE!
YOU WERE SECRETLY MEETING WITH A LOVER AT THE MOUNTAIN VILLA, AND
HE IS...
SO YOU GAVE THIS TO RYOU-KUN.
HE'S THE SON OF YOU AND YOUR LOVER.

THUD
?!
SLAM
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THIS MAN CAME TO BLACKMAIL ME
I'M GIVING HIM A LESSON
DON'T WORRY, HE WON'T DIE
SO VIOLENT... I WAS ONLY...
UGH
IT HURTS
!

GRAB
AKI-HITO -SAN!
NNN!
WAIT. WE DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'LL WAKE UP!
HE SEEMS TO KNOW ANYWAY
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW
DIDN'T YOU WANT THIS? AFTER ALL, YOU TOOK A SHOWER
AH!
AH!
BU...
BUT!
PULL

HERE, WE MIGHT AS WELL SHOW HIM
NO! DON'T!
THIS IS THE BODY I HAVE TRAINED SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG
DON'T BE EMBAR-RASSED
AH!
AH! AAAHH!
YOU FEEL IT SO MUCH!
AH... HIS LOVER IS ACTUALLY...
RYOU-KUN HIMSELF...?!

I CANNOT DEFY THIS MAN...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I HATE HIM
AH!
AAAHH...
IF YOU WANT IT, CLIMB ON YOURSELF
YOU'RE UP TO IT, AREN'T YOU?
THRUST
IF I WANT TO PROTECT NATSUHIKO...
GOOD,
RYOU IS SUCH A GOOD SON

We wish a happy belated birthday to some members of the staff
We hope you have had a wonderful day and have begun a fabuloua year
Happy Birthday!!
Harakun
Sakura
Megon
Jess Jess
From the Staff of Countless Time

# Countless Time

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### Chapter 5

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「新人小説家の甘い憂鬱」水上ルイ ／ 椎子マトカ
© MINAKAMI RUI MACHIKO MADOKA / GENTOSHA COMICS

# Countless Time

新人小説家の甘い憂鬱

We are looking for dedicated people who can help us to spread the love around. Seeking:

- Japanese Translator(s)
- Proofreader

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Act 5

Knock Knock
HOW ABOUT A LITTLE BREAK
RYOU-CHAN
FOR THE BOTH OF YOU?
OH, IS IT THAT TIME ALREADY?
CLINK
I NEEDED A BREAK TOO, SO...
LET'S ALL HAVE TEA TOGETHER
ALTHOUGH SETSU-SAN WOULD'VE DONE IT,
YEAH, OKAY, BUT RYOU-CHAN,
DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME?
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM

RYOU-KUN, I HEARD THAT YOU'VE RECEIVED A STAMP OF APPROVAL FOR A PLACE AT A UNIVERSITY
IT'S IMPRESSIVE THAT YOU DIDN'T EVEN ATTEND CRAM SCHOOL
SO,
ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPLY THAT TAKAYA-SHI BOUGHT MY WAY IN.
AND THAT IF I HAD FAILED THE ENTRANCE EXAM, HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT IT?
DON'T WORRY, WHEN IT COMES TO RYOU-CHAN,
I'M THE UNFORGIVING ONE!
DO YOUR BEST SO WE CAN BOTH GO TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY IN THE SPRING,
RYOU-CHAN, RYOU AOISHI'S OFFICIALLY TAKEN...
IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT RYOU-CHAN WOULD LIVE WITH AOISHI IN THE SAME SCHOOL
NATSU
YOU'RE A SPORT, NATSU-KUN

AS FOR ME I WAS PREPARING FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAM MY HEART WAS OFTEN ABUZZ, BUT NEVERTHELESS, I WAS EXPECTING THE TRANQUILITY TO CONTINUE
I'M GLAD THAT SENSEI AND RYOU-CHAN DON'T PARTICULARLY CLASH WITH ONE ANOTHER
I'M ANGRY!
THEY'LL BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WELL ENOUGH WITH EACH OTHER, WON'T THEY?
HE ALREADY HAS YOU AS HIS SON, SO WHAT IS TAKAYA-SHI UP TO?
Hmm where were we..?
I'm—
SENSEI
I WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE HOWEVER
WELCOME BACK, MASTER-SAMA
SLAM

Close
SO, IS NATSU-KUN WILLING TO GO THE EXTRA MILE?
WELL...
YEAH,
I'LL MAKE SURE HE PASSES HIS ENTRANCE EXAM.
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU.
WELL THEN, PLEASE LOOK AFTER NATSU, NARUSE-SENSEI!
RYOU..
YES.
SHOULDN'T IT BE "YES" RATHER THAN "WELL"?
THAT INCIDENT ON THE NIGHT OF THE PARTY.. IT'S AS IF IT WAS JUST A BAD DREAM
UH...
AND AKIHITO TAKAYA THOSE TWO...

HA... AH...
RY...
WHEN I CAME TO, HE WAS ON TOP OF ME
I'D BEEN WELL AND TRULY KICKED IN THE GUTS
UGH.
EH...?
WHA- WHAT ARE YOU...?
RYOU-KUN?!
UH!
Rock
OH...
Slap
Slap
Thrust
Thrust
NGNN...

YOUTHS ARE QUITE DREADFUL, YES?
HEY, SHOULD I MENTION THAT I'LL BE JEALOUS IF HE STIMULATES YOU AND INSERTION IS POSSIBLE?
TA--TAKAYA--SENSEI?!
FLASH
FLASH
UH!
WHAT ARE YOU...?
JUST A COUPLE OF SOUVENIR PHOTOS
SO YOU DON'T GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT BLACKMAIL.
I--
NEVER INTENDED...
RYOU'S BODY IS TOP-NOTCH, EH?
AH!
PUMP
Creak

Creak
AH... AH!
NHN...
Creak
NATURALLY, EVEN WITHOUT SUCH PHOTOS,
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE SO STUPID AS TO PUT ME AT A DISADVANTAGE
SLIP
THRUST
AM I RIGHT, NARUSE-SENSEI?

WELL?
SENSEI?
NARUSE-SENSEI?
HUH? OH, SORRY,
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
EVEN THOUGH WE WERE FACING EACH OTHER, HE APPEARED UNFAZED,
DESPITE THE COLD SWEAT RUNNING DOWN MY BACK
YEAH, THIS FOR-MULA
SHUDDER

I GUESS I'LL GO TO BED SOON
I'VE CRAMMED TOO MUCH AND MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'LL BURST
PHEW
LET'S BOTH GO TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY
I GUESS I SHOULD DO A BIT MORE
SINCE I'M AT THE BORDERLINE OF FAILING THE ENTRANCE EXAM
OFF TO THE TOILET

Footstep
SINCE THEN WE'D BOTH BEEN TOO BUSY SO WE DIDN'T GET TO TALK MUCH
ARE YOU AWAKE, RYOU..?
Knock Knock
STAY OUT!
VOICES?
RYOU-CHAN?
EH?
NO...

GOOD NIGHT
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW
YEAH
SORRY, I'M AL-READY IN BED, SO..
I SEE
RYOU-CHAN?
STIFLE
AH
HM...

WITH NATSU CLOSE BY,
THERE'S NO WAY—
I—
ARE YOU ENTITLED TO SAY THAT SORT OF THING?
THRUST THRUST
EEK!
OH..
YOUR BRAVE LOOK IS IN-SUFFERABLE, YOU KNOW
DON'T BE STUPID!
BESIDES, I THINK IT'S OKAY TO LET NATSUHIKO SEE, DON'T YOU?
NG!
AH!
I CAN'T LET NATSUHIKO SEE ME LIKE THIS

UGH ...!
AT THE VERY LEAST I WANT TO BE STRONG IN FRONT OF NATSUHIKO
I THOUGHT I HEARD VOICES, BUT I GUESS IT WAS MY IMAGINATION.
Self-Stu

WHAT ARE YOU SO DEPRESSED ABOUT, NATSU?
OF COURSE, EVEN RYOU-CHAN HAS PLENTY OF FRIENDS
YEAH, MAYBE HE WAS TALKING ON THE PHONE
EH? YOU HAVE SHARP EARS
IT'S A HOT TOPIC HOW IT'S THE WRONG TIME OF THE YEAR FOR A TRANSFER STUDENT
IS IT TRUE THAT HE'S UNBELIEVABLY BRILLIANT?
COULD THE REASON BE THAT GUY WHO'S TRANSFERRED INTO CLASS E?
HE'S YOUR OLDER BROTHER, RIGHT?
I'M NOT PARTICULARLY DEPRESSED OR ANYTHING
IF IT WERE ME, I'D FIND THAT SORT OF THING HARD TO TAKE
SO I FIGURED YOU WERE DEPRESSED BY THE COMPETITION
THEY SAY THAT THE GIRL'S, WHO WERE RECOMMENDED TO A UNIVERSITY, ARE READY AND WAITING TO GET CLOSE TO HIM IN ANY WAY THEY CAN!
ON TOP OF THAT, HE'S SMART! AND HE'S ALSO GOOD AT SPORTS!

BUT EVEN I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT RYOU IS A GREAT GUY
IF ANYTHING, I THINK OF HIM AS AN OLDER BROTHER I'M PROUD OF.
WELL,
IF THAT'S YOUR ASSESS-MENT, I GUESS I CAN'T DO MUCH ABOUT IT
BUT.. I'M SURE THAT WHILE MY MOTHER WAS STILL ALIVE, I WAS HIS ONLY CHILD.
He never had another child during that time.
WITH REGARDS TO MY FATHER, I THINK NOWADAYS HE WOULDN'T REFUSE ANYBODY,
THAT'S..
NOT TRUE!
BUMP
THERE'S ALSO A RUMOR THAT YOU'RE REALLY HALF-BROTHERS, BUT..
WELL AROUND HERE, STORIES ABOUT HALF-SIBLINGS OR SUCH AREN'T UNUSUAL.
DON'T WORRY!
Isn't yours a high ranking govern-ment official too?
YOU... THAT'S HOW YOU DESCRIBE HIM? TAKAYA-SHI IS ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PARLIAMENTARIANS OF TODAY!
I THINK THAT EVEN A FATHER LIKE MINE HAD HIS GOOD POINTS AT THAT TIME, AT LEAST

I THINK THAT YOUR FATHER ADOPTED A SON IN ORDER TO INSPIRE YOU TO DO YOUR BEST, DON'T YOU?
YOU..
YOUR FATHER IS ALARMED THAT IT WILL BE DETRIMENTAL TO STAY ON THE PATH YOU'RE ON NOW.
REALLY THINK SO?
AS FOR DOING IT FOR THE LIKES OF MY BENEFIT I'M NOT SO MUCH A CHILD THAT I'LL BELIEVE SUCH A CONVENIENT STORY
I LIKE THE SOFT AND WARM NATSU JUST THE WAY HE IS!
DON'T TAKE IT LIGHTLY
EVEN SO AS LONG AS RYOU IS AROUND IT'S OKAY.
MY FATHER'S MOTIVES ARE UNCLEAR, BUT,

Ding Dong
WHOA, IT'S LUNCHTIME
WHERE ARE YOU GOING FOR LUNCH?!
I'M GOING TO EAT WITH RYOU
What?! Did you get a brother-complex already?!
RYOU-
WHERE'D HE GO? I ARRANGED IT WITH HIM THIS MORNING.
I HEARD THAT HE WENT UP TO THE ROOFTOP
THANKS
Squeak

RYOU...?
GUST
sway
RYOU!

STOP!
NATSU ?!
EH?
WH-WHAT?
DON'T JUMP!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I COULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING...
I HAVE NO REASON TO DEPART FROM THIS WORLD
EH?
YOU GAVE ME A FRIGHT!
UH...
I GUESS NOT.
YOU SUDDENLY JUMPED AT ME, AND, EVEN THOUGH THERE'S A RAILING, I THOUGHT I'D FALL!
DID MY EYES DE-CEIVE ME?
SORRY I SOMEHOW MISTOOK IT FOR THAT SORT OF SITUATION...
"MISTOOK" WHAT? OH, NEVER MIND.
ANYWAY, I'M HUNGRY

BUT I WASN'T IMAGINING THE FACT THAT RYOU-CHAN LOOKED SO LONELY FROM BEHIND
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT'S IN...
SETSU-SAN'S LUNCH-BOX!
HERE, NATSU, OPEN YOURS, TOO.
IT WAS AN ASPECT HE'D NEVER SHOWN ME THAT SEEMINGLY SAD AND LONELY FIGURE
RYOU...
HMM?
NAT...

RYOU.
WHAT IS IT, NATSU?
ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT TO DO IT HERE?
NO WAY
IF WE HAVE SEX HERE IT WOULD HURT YOUR BACK.
AND SINCE I'M HUNGRY, LET'S HAVE LUNCH FIRST
IDIOT!
SOMEONE WILL PROBABLY COME UP HERE SOON, MEANING IT'LL BE BOTH THRILLING AND SCARY AT THE SAME TIME.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DO I LOOK LIKE I'M COLD TO YOU?
NATSU-HIKO?
CAN'T I...
EVEN PUT MY ARMS AROUND RYOU'S COLD SHOULDERS?
EH?
LOOK, EARLIER IN GYM CLASS, I CRASHED INTO SOMETHING SO BECAUSE OF THAT I GOT THESE BRUISES!
LOVE BITES?
Slap
Y-YOU'RE WRONG!
RYOU-CHAN... ARE THOSE...

RYOU-CHAN?
RYOU...
CRASH
RYOU-CHAN..
TO LEAVE THOSE SORT OF MARKS HE HAS A PARTNER / OTHER THAN ME
COULD HE HAVE MANY PARTNERS?
TO RYOU IS SEX JUST FOR FUN?
AM I MERELY ONE OF THEM?

"I'VE BEEN CONSTANTLY THINKING ABOUT YOU"
"EVEN NOW, MY FEELINGS ARE UNCHANGED"
EVEN THOUGH HE SAID THAT?!
NATSU'S STILL DEPRESSED, EH?
I KNOW HE'S IN PREPARATION FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAM, BUT IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY?
BUT..
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ALL OF RYOU'S WORDS WERE LIES
I DON'T WANT TO THINK THAT!!
TOOT TOOT

I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU PLEASE GET IN
NARUSE-SENSEI?
IT'S UNUSUAL, YOU COMING TO THE SCHOOL
SAY... DOES SENSEI'S GIRLFRIEND GIVE YOU LOVE BITES DURING SEX?
HUH?
ARE YOU TRYING TO DIVERT ME?
I'M NOT GOING TO HIT ON YOU ANYMORE
THAT'S NOT IT
IF SHE WAS AN ASSERTIVE WOMAN SHE PROBABLY WOULD
IT'S A SIGN THAT THE PERSON'S DESIRE TO MONOPOLIZE IS STRONG
COME TO THINK OF IT, MEN WILL GENERALLY DO IT, BUT WOMEN GENERALLY DON'T
WHAT? ARE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXCITED BY SUCH TALK?

I'M SORRY TO LEAVE THIS CONVERSATION UNFINISHED BUT AS OF TODAY, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ACCEPT MY RESIGNATION AS YOUR PRIVATE TUTOR
AN ASSERTIVE GIRLFRIEND, OR..
EH?
SE-SENSEI ?!
FOR A LONG TIME NOW, I'VE WANTED TO GO AND STUDY ABROAD
FOR THAT, I'M SORRY, BUT...
I THOUGHT THAT THIS PART-TIME TUTORING JOB MIGHT GET ME A FOOTHOLD INTO THE WORLD OF POLITICS BUT...
..IT'S BEEN ARRANGED SO THAT YOU CAN CONTINUE ON WITH SOMEONE SUPERIOR TO ME
OH COME ON, SENSEI
YEAH, AND YOU HAVE RYOU-KUN OF COURSE
YOU BOTH WANT TO GO TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY, SO THAT'S QUITE REASSURING
YEAH -
I CAN'T TAKE SUCH A FRIGHTENING WORLD!

IN HIS CASE, HE'D HANDLE ANYTHING WELL
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S A TEENAGER. INDEED, I'M THE ONE WHO WAS LIKE A NAIVE YOUTH..
IT SEEMS HE'S EXTREMELY SKILLFUL AT INGRATIATING HIMSELF WITH TAKAYA-SENSE!
HIS LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE IS HIGH
SENSEI?!
DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING?! SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
EH, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.
DO YOU KNOW, RYOU'S SECRET?

JUST THAT, AT THE MOUNTAIN VILLA, I FOUND THIS
EVEN I DON'T KNOW! WHY DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN?
A TAKADA...
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT ANYMORE I'M SORRY
NATSU-KUN IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU ALSO PRETENDED NOT TO NOTICE, OKAY?
I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THAT INCIDENT 5 YEARS AGO
I DON'T REMEMBER VERY MUCH ABOUT IT EITHER
PERHAPS THE REASON WHY RYOU HAS THAT SORT OF LOOK IS
SLAM

THANKS VERY MUCH
I CAN'T SAY THAT BY COMING HERE EVERYTHING WILL BECOME CLEAR... BUT,
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE IGNORANT BECAUSE... I LOVE RYOU

Because we have not greeted some people of the staff on their birthday, we hope this doctor can help you to forget it {^~^}

Happy Belated Birthday!!

ScarletxD
Niedy
lil_ari
Amatite

We didn't forget it at all!

From the Staff of Countless Time ♥

# Countless Time

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## Ima wa Tooi Natsu

### Chapter 6

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Final Act

I THOUGHT IT WAS COLD, IT'S SNOWING

A TAKAYA IT'S A LIGHTER WITH AKIHITO TAKAYA'S NAME ON IT
YOU SEE, I THOUGHT THAT I'D DISCOVERED TAKAYA-SHI'S ILLEGITIMATE CHILD
THAT'S NOTHING AS THE SON OF A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO CULTIVATE A CONNECTION WITH AN INFLUENTIAL PARLIAMENTARIAN
IT WAS EXTORTION?
I WAS FOOLISH TO HAVE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS MY CHANCE
YOU'RE KIDDING! THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS
HAVING BEEN CONFRONTED WITH THAT SORT OF SITUATION
BEING THE COWARD I AM, I ENDED UP RUNNING AWAY AS FAST AS I COULD
HOWEVER, THAT TINY ASPIRATION WAS UTTERLY ROUTED THAT EVENING

RYOU-CHAN HAS BEEN SLEEPING WITH A MAN?
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
IT'S NOT THAT I DOUBT SENSEI'S STORY BUT IT'S NOT SOLID EVIDENCE
COME ON! RYOU-CHAN IS MY
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IN THE END
OF COURSE, YOU HAD A VERY SHELTERED UPBRINGING AND KNOW NOTHING OF THE GOINGS-ON BEHIND THE SCENES
THERE WERE THOSE MYSTERIOUS LOVE BITES...

IGNORANCE MEANT YOU COULD LEAD A PEACEFUL LIFE
SENSEI!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT, IS THERE? EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT...
MOST OF ALL, IT'S RYOU WHO DOESN'T WANT IT KNOWN
—
I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP, BUT...
I WAS HOPING THAT YOU'D ALWAYS BE HAPPY AND SMILING...
IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T MEAN THAT I DISLIKE YOU
WHAT IS IT THAT I DON'T KNOW?
CRICKLE

THOSE WORDS
NO MATTER WHAT, I WILL PROTECT YOU
THE VOW I MADE WHEN WE WERE KIDS REMAINS UNCHANGED
CRACKLE
BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS A CONFESSION OF LOVE, I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT DEEPLY
LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS, WHEN HE PROTECTED ME FROM THE KIDNAPPER...
THAT RYOU WAS SAYING HE'D PROTECT ME FROM?
WHAT WAS IT

I HAVE TO FIND OUT
EVEN IF HE DOESN'T WANT ME TO KNOW,
RYOU?
WHY IS IT THAT SOMETIMES YOU SHOW ME SUCH A SAD SMILE
PUBLIC LIBRARY
RYOU ARISAKA-KUN (10), WHO HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED, WAS FOUND ALONE A WEEK LATER IN A WOODED AREA ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 7TH, AND WAS TAKEN INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY...
WHAT IS TORMENTING YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED THAT SUMMER? WHAT IS IT THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN?

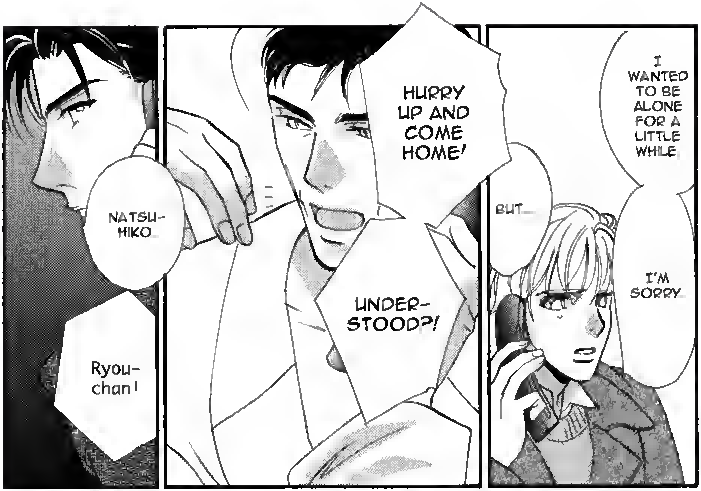
SIGH
I REALLY AM GLAD HE WASN'T KILLED
NO CLUE AS TO WHO THE KIDNAPPER WAS...
HE ARTFULLY OBTAINED THE RANSOM AND THEN ESCAPED
NO CLUES, IT SAYS
I GUESS I DIDN'T GIVE ANY EVIDENCE THEN?
ALTHOUGH I WAS STILL JUST A CHILD, I WAS ALREADY IN THE UPPER GRADES OF PRIMARY SCHOOL SO, IT'S A LITTLE...
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING, NOT EVEN THE SMALLEST THING? DON'T YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR FRIEND?
UU-UU-UH
RYOU-CHAN, RYOU-CHAN IS
HE'S STILL ONLY A CHILD
SUCH RELENTLESS QUESTIONING WILL ONLY CONFUSE HIM
YOU! MY SON HAS HAD A TERRIBLE SHOCK
TAKAYA-SENSEI..
PAPA
RYOU-CHAN IS
Sob
Sob
IT'S ALL RIGHT, NATSUHIKO
RYOU-CHAN..

YOU WERE SCARED, WEREN'T YOU?
PAPA WILL TAKE CARE OF IT
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT SO,
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT
YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT THIS DREADFUL INCIDENT
SENSEI, IF YOU PLEASE
I'LL TREAT HIM WITH HYPNOTHERAPY TO EASE THE SHOCK INSTEAD

HUH?
SON,
THE LIBRARY'S CLOSING SOON

IN THE SUMMER, EVERYTHING WAS SO DAZZLINGLY BRIGHT.
NOW IT'S AS IF THE SNOW IS TRYING TO COVER UP EVERYTHING.
OH DEAR, THE SNOW IS GETTING HEAVY TAKE CARE ON THE WAY HOME
SORRY
BOTH CLEAN AND DIRTY THINGS ARE COMPLETELY
YOU WILL COMPLETELY FORGET EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS DREADFUL INCIDENT.
FATHER

YIKES!
SINCE I'M NOT USED TO THE SNOW, IT TOOK A WHILE TO GET BACK
R R R R
R R R R
OOPS
YES, TAKAYA RESI-DENCE
Natsuhiko, I knew it.
FATHER?
What on earth are you doing there?
YOU TOLD SETSU-SAN YOU'D BE GONE FOR NO MORE THAN 2-3 DAYS AND THEN LEFT THE HOUSE
EVERYONE WAS WOR-RIED


I WANTED TO BE ALONE FOR A LITTLE WHILE
BUT...
I'M SORRY
HURRY UP AND COME HOME!
UNDER-STOOD?!
NATSU-HIKO...
Ryou-chan!

IT'S SNOWING THERE, ISN'T IT?
DON'T CATCH A COLD
IF YOU'RE AFTER FIRE-WOOD, THERE'S A PILE OUT-SIDE THE BACK DOOR
THERE'S A FIRE GOING IN THE FIRE-PLACE SO I'LL BE ALL RIGHT
IF I RUN OUT OF FIREWOOD, I GUESS IT'LL BE OKAY IF I THROW A CHAIR IN THE FIRE
Yeah, that's right. It's a huge one, eh.
Oh, right.

I organized it over the summer.
Uh... huh.
THANKS FOR LETTING ME USE IT
.....
SAY, DO YOU HAVE A COLD? YOUR VOICE SOUNDS WEIRD
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'LL BE WAITING, SO...
leave that house quickly ...
CLUNK
RYOU..
RYOU?
beep beep beep
OHH

.....
I'LL CLOSE UP THE MOUNTAIN VILLA STRAIGHT AWAY.
UH
UH
IT'S TOO BAD THAT IT'S JAM-PACKED WITH OUR MEMORIES, BUT...
I WISH THAT HOUSE WOULD BURN DOWN.
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR MY FATHER TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT ME.
THERE IT IS
HAS RYOU BEEN MANAGING THIS VILLA OR SOMETHING?
WHOOSH

HAAH
YOU SPEAK TO NATSUHIKO WITH SUCH AFFECTION.
IT WASN'T CONCERN.
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THAT PLACE WAS HELL.
NOW, HERE TOO IS NO DIFFERENT.

ON THAT SUMMER'S DAY, AFTER I WAS CAPTURED BY THIS MAN...
DO YOU HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST NATSUHIKO?
DON'T... TALK ABOUT NATSU.
YOU DON'T THINK IT'S HIS FAULT THAT YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO THIS?

RYOU SAID THAT I SHOULD LEAVE THIS HOUSE QUICKLY..
IT'S AS IF I SHOULDN'T BE HERE
THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?
AROUND HERE, THIS HOUSE IS WELL KNOWN FOR...
BEING HAUNTED
ONE OF THE ROOMS IS HAUNTED BY A TERRIFYING GHOST
YOU CAN HEAR THE CRIES OF ITS PITIFUL VICTIM...
THE GHOST WAS A JOKE OF RYOU'S.
BUT..
THAT ROOM..
IS THERE SOMETHING IN THERE?!
CRACK

BANG
Haah
Haah
WHAT THE?
THIS IS FATHER'S STUDY

CLUNK
SNIP
WASN'T THIS THE YEAR THE KIDNAPPING HAPPENED?
DID HE MAKE A RECORDING?
THIS YEAR IS .
WHY ARE THESE VIDEOS BEING KEPT HERE?
HE ONLY COMES TO THE VILLA EVERY NOW AND THEN
Do you mind?
I wonder how well it'll come out
?
THAT GUY .
Hey give the filming a rest will you!
It's just a memento

SHINE
RUSTLING
WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS...?
THE KIDNAPPER?!
Since we're badgers from the same hole* I won't sell you out
*TN Japanese idiom meaning co-conspirators/brothers in crime
SP
Geez the guy can't even handle my request well
he brings me this filthy thing instead
Even though I told him to bring Natsuhiko
Untie me!
Let me go! Let me go!
RYOU!

THAT... VOICE!
COLLAPSE
Oh well
I guess I'll have to amuse myself with you instead
Mister?
What are you..?
RIP RIP
S-STOP!!
IT CAN'T BE.
Come here Let me see all of you
Naturally, a child's skin is different
It's silky

Th-That's no good!
If you're going to do such awful things to Natsu, then...
Natsu
If Natsu finds out about this he'll cry
That's right
If he finds out Next time I might have Natsuhiko join me
Then
you alone will be my partner
Eh?
Otherwise I will have Natsuhiko be my partner
That was my intention from the beginning
It seems you're quite the hero
You're not Natsuhiko
Even so you're my favorite
Eek!
I'd wished for another son like you.
FA... THER...

Uwa!
Don't do that
I'll spare Natsu from that
Gyaaaaaah!
All right Then this will be our secret
You mustn't tell anyone
RYOU...
Otherwise it will be very bad for Natsuhiko
I HAD NO IDEA
I HAD

CLACK
THEY'RE ALL ABOUT RYOU !
CLUNK
THIS AND
THIS AND...
CRASH
CLUNK
EVERY NIGHT THE GHOST CAME HAUNTING, DEMANDING, AND MANIPULATING FOR SACRIFICIAL BLOOD
THERE ARE FIVE YEARS WORTH OF THIS HERE?!
NO MATTER WHAT, I WILL PROTECT YOU.
RYOU, I HAD NO IDEA...
SLAM...

YOU'VE WATCHED IT...
EVEN THOUGH I TOLD HIM TO THROW OUT SUCH DISGUSTING VIDEOS...
I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN, SO AT MIDNIGHT, WHEN HE WASN'T LOOKING, I SLIPPED AWAY..
RYOU..
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO FIND OUT!
COLLAPSE

RYOUUU!!
.....
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
EVEN IF BY CHANCE YOU HAD ALREADY LEFT, NATSU, I HAD TO COME
EVERY TIME I WAS COMMANDED BY THAT MAN,

I WATCHED THEM ALL
HE SAID THEY WERE A RECORD OF MY GROWTH TO ADULTHOOD OR SOMETHING, AS HE GLEEFULLY SHOWED THEM TO ME
THOSE TAPES ARE JUST PERVERSION
THE LIKES OF HIM USING BRUTE FORCE TO HAVE HIS WAY WITH A HELPLESS CHILD...
IT'S INHUMAN...
SQUEEZE
I'M NOT SAYING THAT I DIDN'T REAP ANY BENEFITS.
AS A KID, NATURALLY I STARTED TO BECOME CRAFTIER YEAR BY YEAR.
AT FIRST, IT WAS INTOLERABLE. I WAS PUT THROUGH AN ABSOLUTE HELL OF A TIME...
Stop!
Nooo!
DOING THINGS LIKE ASKING FOR HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT,
HAVING HIM BUY ME THE LATEST GAMES AND SO ON,
I REACHED THE POINT WHERE I WAS ABLE TO APPEAR HAPPY SO IT WOULDN'T BE SO DREADFUL

SO NOWADAYS, HE HAS MY COMPLETE CONSENT.
I... CONSIDER US TO BE LOVERS...
I TOO AM QUITE THE MERCENARY*.
NOW, I'M THE SON OF A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY
CONSENT?!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
*TN: "mercenary" meaning the motivated by money type
EVEN NOW, RYOU,
WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO SHED SUCH BITTER TEARS?!

NATSU,
I.
I OFTEN THOUGHT I'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I SUF-FERED... TERRI-BLY.
STILL...

IF I CLOSE MY EYES, MY MEMORY OF THAT SUMMERS' DAY, HOLDING YOUR HAND, YOUR SMILING FACE,
AND THE BRIGHT SUNLIGHT AND SMELL OF THE GREENERY, IS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE
WON'T YOU PLEASE GO ON LIVING FOR MY SAKE?
NATSU
IN ORDER TO PRO-TECT ME
I WAS DE-TERRED FROM DYING BY MY VOW OF THAT DAY..
THANK YOU, RYOU
PLEASE GO ON LIVING

SO..
ANOTHER PERSON WHO CAN GO AHEAD AND DIE
TRUDGE
TRUDGE

WHAT'S THIS DOING HERE...?
CRASH
SMEAR

COUGH
COUGH
HOW FOOLISH
LEAVING A LIGHTER IN SUCH A PLACE
FOR SOMEONE TO SLIP ON, IS DANGER-OUS..
RIGHT?
WE...!
I...!

TREMBLE
BUT.. WELL.
I HAD A HUNCH WHEN I WAS LURED HERE
I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW WHY WE DID IT?
"FATHER"
HEH
YOU'VE GROWN UP TO LOOK JUST LIKE HER, YOU HAVE
NOW I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M SEEING YOU.. FOR THE FIRST TIME
THE SPITTING IMAGE OF THAT WOMAN WHO REJECTED MY REASON FOR BEING
THAT BELOVED AND HATEFUL WOMAN

*TN: Ari-saka was Ryou's former name.
N-NO... ARI-SAKA-SAN" AND I..
SHE WAS SO BEAUTI-FUL, AND SPARKLED LIKE THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER. I MADE HER MINE AGAINST HER WILL.
SHE'S SO CONSUMED WITH HAPPINESS, SHE WILL BECOME MY WIFE, RATHER THAN THAT INSIGNIFICANT COUNTRY BUMPKIN'S.
WHY WON'T YOU SMILE?! WHY WON'T YOU LOOK ME IN THE EYES?!
I'M PUTTING EFFORT INTO THE SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY..
THAT'S LINKED TO YOUR VOTES!
THAT'S WHY! YOU'RE A PERSON WHO WON'T BUDGE UNLESS IT BENEFITS YOU!
YOU ARE A PERSON WHO HAS NO CON-SIDERATION FOR ANYONE ELSE
I'M AFRAID OF YOU
YOU'RE COLD-HEARTED AND I CANNOT LOOK INTO THOSE EYES!
I'M UNPLEASANTLY REMINDED OF THE ONE WHO TURNED HER BACK ON ME.

Y-
YOU WENT ABOUT IT THE WRONG WAY!
A PERSON THAT I HAD CONTROL OF WAS ESSENTIAL. SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE DEDI-CATED TO ME..
ONCE, I MEANT TO DESTROY THAT SMIL-ING FACE,
HOW COULD YOU GET ANYONE TO LOVE YOU USING SUCH METHODS?!
SOMEONE WHO WOULD LOVE ME...
YET I FLED TO YOU
HACK
TELL ME HOW ?!
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
LISTEN.. YOU TWO WILL INHERIT THE...
TAKAYA HOLDINGS
BUT WE... NOT LIKE THIS...
BU...

I TOO HAVE BEEN YEARNING FOR THE BRILLIANCE OF THAT SUMMER,
FOR THAT SMILING FACE THAT WAS BOTH NEAR AND FAR..
"HOW DOES ONE GO ABOUT BEING LOVED? IF I KNEW THAT..
FATHER!
AKIHITO-SAN!
I SUPPOSE THAT WAS YOUR MISSION
WELL,
YOU'VE PULLED IT OFF NOW

MY, MY, YOU LOOK SPLENDID, NATSU-SAN
NO, AS OF TODAY, YOU MUST CALL ME SENSEI
THANK YOU FOR EVERYONE'S ASSISTANCE. SETSU-SAN, YOU HELPED OUT TOO
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF FACE HE'LL BE MAKING UP IN HEAVEN.
UN-DOUBT-EDLY YOUR FATHER UP THERE WOULD ALSO BE PLEASED
N-NATSUHIKO, HURRY UP!
...RIGHT

NEVERTHELESS, WE CONTINUE TO GO ON TOGETHER,
THE GUILT WILL NEVER FADE AWAY
THIS IS THE FIRST APPEARANCE IN PARLIAMENT OF NATSUHIKO TAKAYA-SHI, WHO SUCCEEDS THE LATE AKIHIKO TAKAYA-SHI
TOGETHER WITH ARISAKA-SHI, A SENIOR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND HIS BROTHER
WE HOPE THAT THESE TWO WILL BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THIS PLACE OF POLITICS
EVEN IF THAT SUMMER'S DAY, WHERE ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING WAS SPARKLING, IS FAR, FAR AWAY...
END

*TN These two titles appear to be disguised names of Japanese soap operas, most likely "Shinju Fujin" and "Ai no Sorea". Both stories have some of the tragic elements of this manga.

# Afterword

You must be worn out! Thank you for reading as far as here. The serialization's title page catch-phrase was "a gorgeous romance story" but... whereabouts was the "gorgeous" feeling?! At any rate, I was aiming for a murky love story with soap opera overtones

I probably had "Shinju ○jin" and "Ai no ○"* in mind, and I guess I simply felt that I wanted to depict that sort of story! The me of that time ▲, well... when I started to draw, I was in a complete mess. Or should I say, I wasn't able to come up with strong development, so it was difficult. As for my output rate, I felt as if I'd become stuck in mire, so it was all the more hopeless.

Lastly, the death of the father. Now I had just about taken care of the story. Serialization was rough going, after all it was over the top, so they weren't able to be "nice guys" till the end.

While I continually gave a lot of trouble to the manager in charge of serialization, he/she gave me advice and encouragement, so I'm truly grateful. T-sama, thank you very much! And to Takahashi-san and Satou-san for always helping, thank you!

Kai Nanase

PS Next time I want to see a comedy! Please treat me kindly ▲